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Public Health

Duties of Health Inspectors.

*1332 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Health Inspectors are now charged with the duties of drafting plans and estimates for simple sanitary projects and taking steps to remedy defects in village drainage water-supplies besides other duties such as quinine distribution, etc., as per G.O. No. 631, Public Health, dated 5th May 1922; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to direct a proper modification of the duties of Health Inspectors enumerated in the Public Health Code, Part I, pages 56–57?

A.—(a) The duties of Health Inspectors may include the preparation of plans and estimates for simple sanitary projects so far as these are within their technical capacity. They may also be required to undertake such other duties as the distribution of quinine.

(b) The Government do not consider that any modification is necessary.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know, Sir, whether the duties mentioned in clause (a) are included specifically in the Health Code?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"They are not specifically included in the Health Code."

Drugs tested by the medical officer in charge of leper asylums.

*1333 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: With reference to the answer to clause (ii) (a) of question No. 390 answered on 8th October 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what drugs are at present being tested by medical officers in charge of leper asylums and with what result in each case?

A.—The Government consider that it is not desirable to give the names of the drugs which are being tried until they are fully tested and found to be satisfactory. Premature disclosure of the names may result in danger to the public if the drugs are used by men without skill and experience.

Legislative programme of the hon. the Minister for Public Health.

*1334 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state his legislative programme for the rest of the life of this Council?

A.—At present, steps are being taken to have a Public Health Act drafted.

Mr. S. Satyamurti:—"May I have from the hon. Minister any idea as to whether he proposes to introduce any legislation on prohibition?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"At present there is no idea."

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Mr. K. R. Karant :—"May I know whether certain difficulties are experienced in the Town Planning Act and whether he will endeavour to bring soon the amending Bill which has been ready for the past two years?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"The Town Planning Act is under me but I am not aware that any Bill is ready for the past two years."

Training of Sanitary Inspectors.

* 1335 Q.—Mr. K. Uppi Sahib : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number separately of Sanitary and Health Inspectors who have undergone their course during the four years 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928;

(*b*) how many of these officers were over 45 and how many over 50 years of age;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Inspectors of over 45 years of age have not to sit for any examinations at the end of the course or that they are not penalised in any way if they don't pay proper attention to their studies;

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that the Madras Corporation have declined to send any of their Sanitary Inspectors for this training; and if so, for what reasons;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons recruited as Health Inspectors have not had any training in "Minor Sanitary Engineering" and are also not required to undergo the quinquennial training in this subject; and

(*f*) whether Government will give a statement of the amounts disbursed as salaries and travelling allowance to Lecturers and Inspectors and their families to and from Madras and for touring in districts during the four years 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*).

Year.	Number trained.		Total number trained.	Number of persons who were	
	Health Inspectors.	Sanitary Inspectors.		above 50.	above 45.
1925	24	13	37	4	5
1926	29	16	45	3	8
1927	27	28	55	1	7
1928	26	25	51	5	11

(*c*) Health and Sanitary Inspectors who are more than 45 years of age may apply to the Director of Public Health for exemption from the examination. The Director of Public Health grants exemption only to those persons whose progress in the class is certified to be satisfactory by the lecturing staff. Those who are not exempted are obliged to appear for the examination and if they fail, to undergo further training at their own cost.